

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for treating ~~any disease or disorder associated with serum total cholesterol levels, low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels, apolipoprotein B levels, or triglyceride levels~~ hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia or atherosclerosis in a mammal, comprising:

orally administering to said mammal a composition comprising β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95 wt% β -casein A²,

wherein [[the]] a serum level of any one or more of:

a) cholesterol;

b) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol relative to high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol;

c) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol;

d) very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) cholesterol;

e) apolipoprotein B; or

f) triglycerides

after administration of the composition is lower than the serum level before administration of the composition.

~~the serum total cholesterol levels, the low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels, the apolipoprotein B levels, or the triglyceride levels in the mammal after administration of the composition is lower than the serum level before administration of the composition.~~

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 where the composition is a food or food product.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5 where the food or food product is milk or a product containing or processed from milk.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 where the composition is a dietary supplement.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the dietary supplement is ingested for optimizing fitness, weight loss, weight gain, muscle building, and/or muscle repair.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim
[[1]] 3 where the composition is milk containing β -casein where
the β -casein is comprised of at ~~last~~ least 95 wt% β -casein A².

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9 where the
 β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim
[[1]] 3 where the β -casein A² is obtained from the milk of bovine
cattle or from the milk of yaks, buffalo, sheep or goats.

13-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim
[[1]] 3 where the composition is an aqueous solution, a
suspension or an emulsion.

18. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim
[[1]] 3 where the composition is a solid in granular or powder
form.

19-24. (canceled)